

September 14, 2001

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SEP 21 2001

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Dear Lake H. Barrett,

The inherent dangers in burying and/or storing nuclear waste in any one single location presents a very relevant risk to people, wildlife, the land and ecosystems of that area. In fact, it seems illogical to transport and store all the nations nuclear waste in any one single repository, if only due to the mass scale calamity that could possibly occur due to an foreseen accident. It would be so much worse than, if, say each nuclear plant kept and stored their own waste filled cylinders in a repository on their own individual sites. Actually it would seem far less risky to have several smaller calamities than one massive one. Also, the risk of transporting all this waste across Americas interstates could result in several accidents as well. And now, given , and taking into consideration the recent, dispicable terrorist attacks on our country and the possibility of more and other ways in which they could attack again poses an even greater risk of traveling unprotected with this waste. I feel it extremely unsafe and unwise, and essentially makes the dangers and risks involved far greater and wider reaching.

In essence, if nuclear power were such a safe and clean way to produce energy, we would not be faced with the dilemma of what to do with such dangerous materials in the first place. We really should and need to be investing more time and money on alternative and safer energy sources. Natural sources. Solar, wind and hydrogen. These sources are far more readily abundant, existing all around us, and far more clean and it would seem safer and less costly. We really need to start protecting our environment as we are all part of a great chain or web of life...we truly are all connected, but we are or may have already lost this connection as a society. Species are disappearing and deforming at an alarming rate. Weather patterns are changing and becoming less and less predictable. Our waters are polluted beyond current measure. Our air quality gets worse and worse each year---even viewing the Earth from space, scientists can see the results of mans overadvancement, overindulgence, and over consumption and abuse of resources that are running thin. As a nation, we seem to have a lack of respect for nature as the desecration, destruction and detachment with her continues. We need to live in balance with nature. We have become too reliant on resources that cannot be repaired or replaced fast enough , if at all, for our ever increasing techno-lust.

We have a lot to learn, or relearn about the value of the natural world, and our relation with it. This relationship is something native peoples have respected, understood and lived for years and years. And, in closing I think it shows a total lack of respect and a total mind of thoughtlessness to be attempting to use Shoshone sacred ground (Yucca Mountain) to bury our own man produced nuclear waste. So, you ask, is there a safe place? No; no place is safe. Is there a place? I suppose there has to be. But since we created this mess, let's not dump it on a people who did not have a hand (or choice) in the matter.

Thank you for listening to my cares and concerns. I feel they are shared by many unspoken voices.

Sincerely,

Tracie Haryan

